March 1974

2p

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

From the Manse

March 1974

My dear friends,

One of the funniest things I have seen was an early film comedy starring Charlie Chaplin. At this time he was, I believe, playing the part of a janitor in a department store and had been let loose with a large size in vacuum cleaners to keep the building clean. With his face the picture of surprised innocence he watched with amazement the various articles that took themselves suddenly from counter and corner to disappear relentlessly into the machine. It was unfortunate perhaps that, while all this was taking place, a lady should arrive with a white poodle, for hardly had she passed through the doors before she found it necessary to be looking everywhere for the animal, while Charles went calmly on with the chores.

In spite of such difficulties as these, however, the vacuum cleaner, like other household gadgets, has a very real value, for work has a trick of multiplying itself. No self-respecting housewife finds it possible to leave any room untouched for more than a day or so at a time, for somehow the work of the house insists on being done.

There are, however, other matters which although not so obviously crying out to be done are still absolutely essential. Of these the most important is finding time for God in our daily living. Our lives can soon become cluttered up with moral rubbish and our spirits, denied contact with God, grow weak. Is there something demanding attention in your home? No, not the stairs or the weekly wash, nor that bit of carpentry or decorating - it's the unseen demand I am thinking of, the need of a soul for the God who made it.

Why not try to set aside a few minutes of each day for God? If you feel unable to pray just sit quietly and think about Him. You may be surprised

to discover how much blessing there is in 'just being quiet with God', and if there are questions about the Christian faith or life that you would like more light upon then, apart from the opportunities the Church gives, there is the fortnightly Midweek Fellowship that has just commenced with the purpose of meeting this very need. Our next fellowships will be held on March 6th and 20th at 7.30 p.m. You will be very welcome.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month:

"Be still and know that I am God"

Psalm 46. verse 10.

MOMENT OF PEACE

In the quiet of the day it seemed the perfect time to pray. The afternoon was bathed in light and not a soul was there in sight.

The time was right, the way was clear, perhaps that's why You came so near, and all the troubles in my heart seemed to demish or depart. There came an answer quite sublime. It merely said,

"In God's good time."

OBITUARY

Mr. GEORGE GARLICK, aged 63, of 4, Pine Street, Littleborough, passed away recently. We offer our sincere condolences to Mrs. Garlick and the family. Our minister conducted the funeral service at Rochdale Crematorium.

"The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God."

GUESS NIGHT

It is quite some time since St. Stephen's had a packed congregation for a Sunday evening service, but this was the case on January 27th, at the "Guest Night". Young and not so young were involved in the service telling the story in words and music, of 'Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat'. Thanks for the success of this must go to our minister and his wife who trained the children, and Mrs. A. Baines and Mr. A. Clegg who trained and accompanied the choir.

After the service coffee and biscuits were served in the schoolroom but at a price..... a Bible Knowledge Quiz starting with the very young, and when the questions got easy enough for the adults to answer they did so with the Saints overwhelming the Sinners by one point.

At 8.0 pm., everybody hurried home to get out their Bibles and polish up their Bible knowledge ready for next time-------not too far away, so I have heard-------beware!

In the meantime try the following:

How well do you know your Bible?

Do you know?.....

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
2. What did Jacob make for his favourite son Joseph?
3. What was ailing the man who was lowered from the roof to the feet of Jesus?
4. Which prophets are known as the major prophets?
5. One of the disciples had been hated by the others because of his profession. Who and what was he?
6. In which three places did the seed fall in the parable of the Sower?

Pop your answers in the door of the Manse. A prize for the first one who brings in all the right answers.

MILNROW - MIAMI - NEW YORK

At their February meeting the Women's Guild were taken on an enjoyable trip by film to the U.S.A. Arriving in Miami, in the sunny state of Florida we were taken up the Eastern Coast through Georgia, Virginia and eventually to New York. Dr. Roy Howarth was our guide as he related his experiences covering a recent business trip, illustrating his talk with slides.

The speaker at the next Guild meeting on the 5th March will be Counc. W. Edwards J.P., of Wardle, who will tell us about his recent holiday in Russia.

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WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

A large crowd attended the Auction arranged by the ladies, which took place on the 19th February. Items were auctioned by Mrs. E. Gillon, who did the job remarkably well. Lots of realistic bargains were acquired, raising the total of £25.

Ladies please note!

WOMEN'S DISTRICT RALLY

will be held at
Trinity United Reformed Church, Rochdale

on Thursday, 4th April
at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Rev. KATHLEEN HENDRY

SINGERS WANTED!!!!!

The Choir are hoping to present Steiner's "CRUCIFIXION" on the evening of PALM SUNDAY. As you will realize this is an impossible task with the strength of our resident choir, (no disrespect to our three men), so we do appeal to anyone who has a secret singing voice to come and join us.

Choir practises will be on a Friday evening commencing 1st March, from 7.30 - 8.45 p.m. Friday was found to be the best night as husband and wife teams could bring the children with them, as they had no school the following day.

We hope to see some new faces on the 1st March, but if this is not possible, please do support your choir by your presence on the evening of the 7th April.

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MUSIC WANTED!!!!!!

As many of you may know, five 'YOUNG' ladies from St. Stephen's do quite a lot of entertaining at the senior Citizens Clubs around this area.

As they have no funds behind them they are having difficulty finding suitable music to enable them to make changes in their programme.

We wondered if any one has any old sheet music tucked away in the attic that we could beg or borrow; it would certainly be most appreciated. Please inform Mrs. Audrey Baines if you can be of any assistance.

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During a power cut, I was made much aware that Jesus came to bring us the same qualities that electricity brings:

Jesus brings LIGHT - to guide us, to dispel darkness, to warn us of danger, to show us the imperfections in our lives.
Jesus grings WARMTH - the warmth of God's love which sets on fire the hearts of those committed to Him.
Jesus brings ENERGY - the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the lives of those who believe in Him.

God provides a dependable and an abundant source of invisible power. It is our fault if we fail to switch it on.

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IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

FAITH came singing into my room,
And other guests took flight.

Grief and anxiety; Fear and gloom
Sped out into the night.

I wondered that such peace, could be,
But FAITH said gently, Don't you see
That they can never live with me.

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What I want is not to possess a religion, but to have a religion that possesses me.

Charles Kingsley.

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April Messenger: Please Note

Material required by 17th March

C.W.M.

(Council for World Mission)

The Annual meeting of St. Stephen's World Mission Committee was held on Monday 11th February, and it was suggested that details be made known through the Messenger.

As our Church Treasurer has already announced, the yearly amount required for World Mission (Home and overseas) has risen from £75 to £166, so you will appreciate that we are making a great effort this year to meet this total.

We have plans in the offing for a Missionary Evening, with the main aim being that more people will take a missionary box into their home, particularly the young people. This promises to be an interesting evening, having been outlined by our minister, and as already proved, if he has anything to do with it, it will be something out of the ordinary.

We have also arranged a coffee morning and evening to be held at the home of Mrs. Royle on Tuesday, 30th April. One ticket will admit you to either the morning or the evening session (so there is no excuse).

Another coffee evening has also been arranged for the 27th August at the home of Mrs. Emmott.

The dates for opening the missionary boxes has been changed to the 5th May and the 20th October.

All dates listed will be announced at the appropriate times in the Messenger.

We do ask for your support at all our efforts and if you feel you would like to have a missionary box now, please contact me and I will be pleased to let you have one immediately.

Audrey Baines

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

RHODESIA: £515 to provide a girls' dormitory at Dombodema Secondary School

ZAMBIA: £750 over three years to the United Church of Zambia toward the cost of maintaining Kafue church clinic.

SOUTH INDIA: £4,813 to the Coimbatore diocese for buying an X-ray machine for Erode hospital (replacing the 14-year-old machine now broken).

BANGLADESH: £266 to the Church of Bangladesh to meet the cost of installing electricity and equipment at the Rajshahi Girls' High School.

MADAGASCAR: £676 to the FJKM (united church) to support for one year Miss Y. Rabimela who has succeeded CWM's Jim Hardyman as Principal of the Pastoral College, Imerimanroso.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: £1,269 over three years to the United Church to help a new programme of evangelism and pastoral care among the people of the Woodlark Islands. These are very isolated; the Church has made little progress; and many of the children have no school. The United Church hopes to recruit two ordained ministers from outside the region and one from within to work with the aid of the church ship Koonwarra. It is also hoped to start a new school in an area of good gardening land.

TWAIN: £500 to the Presbyterians for emergency aid following the East Coast typhoon in which 100 people died and property (including churches) was damaged.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

FILM NIGHT

"WHERE IS YOUR FAITH" was the title of an excellent film shown on Friday, 8th February. Unfortunately our numbers were reduced due to the bad weather, but those who came also greatly appreciated the coffee and biscuits supplied by the ladies. Our thanks too, to Mr. H. Hill the projectionist.

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MEN'S NIGHT

Rev. Dr. Letch gave an enjoyable talk illustrated with slides on the LAKE DISTRICT, to the February meeting of the Men's Fellowship.

Dr. Letch was introduced and thanked by Mr. Simpson on behalf of the 12 members present, who completed the evening with a supper of chips and peas.

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FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Sunday, 10th February was a service of special singing with contributions from the Choir and the Pilots. Mrs. M. Hill was the organist and Miss Lindsay Merrick accompanied the Pilots.

After the service all retired to the school-room for a "Fellowship Hour" which included singing and a Bible Quiz led by our minister. Coffee and biscuits were served during the evening which was enjoyed by all.

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LOVE

Nothing matters only love, so show it where you can. Miss no opportunity to help your fellow man.....Love can solve all problems and can change the world for you. It's another name for GOD so let its power come through.

.....Patience Strong

PILOT ACTIVITIES

Seven of our Members will be attending the Week-End Camp from March 1st - 3rd.

A programme of film, walk, games and disco are planned.

Lights out is 10.30 p.m. - What a joke!!!!

We do wish our Pilots and their Leader a very happy week-end.

CHANGE OF PLAN

As some of our Pilots are going to Camp on the intended date of the FAMILY CHURCH SOCIAL AND FANCY DRESS, the event has been postponed and will now take place on Saturday, 23rd March at 7.15 pm.

Mums! you have three extra weeks to make the kiddies rig-outs!

The invitation is for all and we hope to see you there.

DON'T FORGET!!! 7.15 p.m. on March 23rd.

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J U M B L E S A L E

Friday, 5th April

at 7.0 p.m.

Proceeds for C.W.M. & Junior Church

Goods for this will be received on Thursday 4th April

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ADVANCE NOTICE:

Good Friday, 12th April -

JOINT SERVICE - 10.45 am. ————

———— at Victoria St. Methodist Church

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CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Mar. 3rd	Counc. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
10th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
17th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
24th	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
31st	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
April 7th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS		ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Mar. 3rd	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan
10th	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. E. Starkie
17th	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. C. Hey
24th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. Bradbury
31st	No Evening Service	
April 7th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. A. Clegg

COMMUNION ROTA

Mar. 3rd	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. K. Hey
April 7th	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. M. Howarth

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Mar. 3rd	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
10th	Mrs. K. Reid	Mrs. J. Ineson
17th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
24th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
31st	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
April 7th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Jan. 6th	5.50½	1.60	14.41½	21.52
13th	4.58	90	10.80	16.28
20th	6.39	1.55	19.05	26.99
27th	5.81½	10.14	19.17½	35.13
	£22.29	£14.19	£63.44	£99.92

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

March 3rd	Ladies Sunday		
10th	Mr. H.W. Hill	Mr. F. Beattie	10.30
	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. E. Holt	6.00
17th	Mr. J. Holt	Mrs. Stott	
24th	Mrs. Crossley	Mr. Nairn	
31st	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. F. Ingham	
April 7th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. E. Holt	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

March 10th	Mr. Ingham	Mr. Nairn	6.00
24th	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Lord	10.30

COFFEE ROTA

March 3rd	J. Hobbs	L. Butterworth
10th	B. Holt	J. Allison
17th	A. Merrick	K. Hill
24th	J. Law	D. Mallinson
31st	S. Moss	B. Hartley
April 7th	W. Spinks	B. Leach

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

March 3rd	"Truth in the familliar" Matthew 5: 13 - 16 " 7: 9 - 11	H. Vincent
10th	"Human potential" Mark 1: 16 - 28	Mark Grindrod
17th	"Think again" Matthew 12: 9 - 14 22 - 28	Janice Greenwood
24th	"He speaks peace" Psalm 85: 1 - 8	S. Moss
31st	"Seek His face" Psalm 27: 1 - 6	Stuart Hartley K. Hill
April 7th		

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

March

Sun.	3rd	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	4th	6.30 pm.	Pilots - and each Monday
Tues.	5th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild Speaker: Counc. Edwards J.P.
Wed.	6th	7.30 pm.	Midweek Fellowship
Sat.	9th		Provincial Synod at Albion U.R.C. Ashton-U-Lyne.
Sun.	10th	11.00 am.	Mr. W. Brisk
		6.00 pm.	Mr. W. Caffrey
Mon.	11th	7.45 pm.	District Lay Preachers Fellowship
Wed.	13th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	17th	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A. (Sacrament of Baptism)
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
Wed.	20th	2.30 pm.	Provincial Womens Rally at Heaton Moor U.R.C.
Sun.	24th	11.00 am.	Mr. D.S. Nuttall B.Sc.
		6.00 pm.	Rev.A.V.J. Nash - GUEST NIGHT
Wed.	27th	8.00 pm.	Church Meeting
Sun.	31st	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
		6.30 pm.	JOINT SERVICE AT MILNROW PARISH CHURCH

April

Mon.	1st	6.30 pm.	Pilots and each Monday
Tues.	2nd	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: Mrs. C.M. Bent
Wed.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Midweek Fellowship
Thur.	4th	7.30 pm.	District Womens Rally at Trinity U.R.C. Rochdale.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

March 3rd	Mrs. E. Smith	Mrs. H. Buckley
10th	Miss M. Wood	
17th	Mrs. A. Tither	Mrs. J. Harrison
24th	Miss I. Tither	Mrs. A. Baines
31st	Mrs. E. King	
April 7th	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. E. Galvin

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

March

Sun. 3rd	10.30 am.)	LADIES SUNDAY
	3.00 pm.)	Speaker: Mrs. M. Nash
Wed. 6th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 10th	10.30 am.)	Rev. A. Nash B.A.
	6.00 pm.)	Evening Communion
Wed. 13th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 17th	10.30 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
Tues.19th	7,30 pm.	Womens Guild A.G.M.
Wed. 20th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Fri. 22nd	7.30 pm.	Film Evening
Sat. 23rd	7.15 pm.	Family Social Evening
Sun. 24th		Mothering Sunday
	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash B.A.
		Family Communion
Tues.26th	7.45 pm.	Church Meeting
Wed. 27th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur.28th	7.30 pm.	Men's Fellowship
		Speaker: Mr. Rex Moore
Sun. 31st	10.30 am.	Mr. A. Roberts

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

March 3rd	Mrs. E. Jackson
10th	Mrs. H. Walker
17th	Mrs. Crossley
	Mrs. Williams
24th	Mrs. Wade
31st	Mrs. Cockcroft
April 7th	Mrs. Priestley

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
January 13th	£4.85	£11.70
20th	£1.30	£ 6.90
27th	£3.08½	£12.65½
February 3rd	£1.47	£ 9.00

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
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Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

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HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

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